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# Abstracts

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## **Spain and Latin America: the Suárez era (1976-1980)**

After 1975, Spain tried to obtain a stronger role in international affairs. One of the main directions of this effort, personally lead by the new king, Juan Carlos, was to reinforce the political, and specially, the commercial relations with Latin America. The result has been quite a success. Spain has diversified its provision of oil. Now Mexico is the second provider of this item to Spain, when before Franco's death these exports were nil, and through an exchange Cuba-USSR, Venezuela and Spain, the latter country gets a million barrels a year from Venezuela.

Latin America has been these four years a good market for the exedental, in a situation of deep crisis of the spanish internal market, manufactured products, specially siderurgical, chemical and truck industries. The middle-level spanish technology has proved itself very adapted to the specific necessities of the american countries. Financially, instead, the Spanish contribution has been scarce, but growing, and has helped, through the creation of new banks, to the Arab investment in Latin America. Spain has coordinated its economic policies in specific aspects with the Latin American area, by its participation in the SELA, Andean Pact and the OAS.

The main actual problems are the eventual entry of Spain in the Common Market.

The trade-sustitution-effect, typical of all economic unions, combined with the necessary application of all the Community commercial policy to Spain (implying that Spain will be part of the Lomé Convention, what will favorise the products of the ACP countries by lowering the tariffs of entrance to Spain) make uncomfortable the Latin American countries. But Spain will have to accept also the UNCTAD Conventions, and this will have a beneficial effect on Latin american exports to Spain which could also become, in the EEC, a good lobbyist for latinamerican interests. Antother negative factor have been the very personal decisions of Suárez, which have damaged the good perspectives of investments in Venezuela, and have also cooled somehow the good relations with Cuba.

For better results in that direction, Spain has to coordinate the diplomatic bodies, to look for a more agresive, commercially oriented embassies, to develop joint ventures and to facilitate new investments of spanish businessmen looking for better oportunities in Latin America. If these efforts are fulfilled, Spain can obtain a more efficient role in international fora, like it has already happened, with the colaboration of Latinamerican countries, in the IMF, and also to provide a growing market of 300 million people with middle level technology products.

## **International economic organizations** The process of transformation

In spite of nationalist tensions generated by the international economic crisis that have obliged them to reconsider their rules and possibilities of action, the Interna-

tional Economic Organizations are today true economic and political actors on the world stage. They play their roles at levels that in certain cases go beyond the mere

coupling of interests among member states, in order to maximize cooperation and to minimize conflict.

Undoubtedly this has been due to the power they have, which is a result of having highly trained officials, adequate resources, and a favourable climate of public opinion during the recent crisis years. To arrive at this present situation, nevertheless, the organizations have had to come a long way.

J.C. Plano and R.E. Rigg have studied the essential aspects of international organizations created during the nineteenth century. Although these aspects are not sufficient criteria for surveying the concept of today's international economic organization, they nonetheless have served as the foundation of the spectacular growth of

this kind of organization since the end of the First World War. Some new characteristics have followed:

- a) the growing complexity of international organizations
- b) a greater politicization, because barriers that traditionally separated strictly technical phenomena from politics are now less important.
- c) the international organizations are moving into new fields of economic activity that demand greater attention.

It should be added that the number of countries taking part in international organizations has increased significantly. Concurrently, the topics dealt with have also grown more complex, and various organizations may deal with the same affairs.

## **French and Black-African languages.**

### **Results and reasons of an imperialism.**

Black Africa is a continent with a whole range of linguistic interferences and complications, where groups living in one politically defined region penetrate one another and where a European language broadly influences these processes with varied results. The growing pressure of French as the official language in the ex-colonies of French West Africa (FWA) has impelled me to approach this issue, beginning with a description of the inevitable historical generalities and the dilemmas of African linguistics today.

The question of whether or not to use a language in the schools and government has to do with economics, and this usually is tied to national independence. Even a quick glance at the map of Africa reveals a lack of real autonomy and, consequently, a lack of importance of the national languages as far as these ex-colonies are concerned, in questions of development.

Black-African languages have nothing to do with Indo-European languages and the imposition of French can serve only to harm attempts at literacy and development. For this reason, the debate over whether or not use the national languages leads us into the problem of real independence.

After analyzing the different practices of English and French colonialism in Africa, a brief description follows of the positions of linguists as far as the study of African languages is concerned. The situation and linguistic perspectives for each country or FWA are subsequently discussed.

Being veritable international instruments, French and English are African realities for relations with other countries and continents. During the coming years, instruction in machinery, chemistry, and other technology will continue to arrive in Africa by means of the European languages. Whether or not to use these languages in se-

condary and advanced education is an open question, because not all pedagogues and Africanists see this as indispensable: superior education will frequently need the aid of international professors. Instead, what is needed vitally to head off the growing apathy of the African people and the culture that always finds a substitute in European languages, is the immediate primary education in the national languages. This is the only way in which such a solution can be achieved on a massive level and avoid cultural rupture with the familiar

African world.

Language and culture are political facts, and the national languages represent a threat to certain imperialist interests. The extent of the conflict is not local, now that Africa has taken the place of the great Asian pie on an international level. The situation of African independence, personality, and culture is an anxiety-producing one. "But we, the Africans, are fatalists, and fatally optimistic," Cheikh Anta Diop once said with a wise smile. Let us hope that time proves him right.

## **Raw materials**

### **Strategic minerals and international conflicts**

The problem of raw materials is twofold: their scarcity and their geographic location. The article deals with the latter aspect. Control over areas rich in raw materials is required in order to assure their supply, since they are vital for economic development.

The oil crisis has made wealthy nations aware of their vulnerability with respect to their dependence on foreign oil.

A similar dynamic occurs with regard to other minerals and raw materials. A political consequence of this situation is the growing militarization of zones rich in raw materials. Another consequence has been the great expenditure on exploration and drilling that, in recent years, minerals companies have been concentrated in the wealthy nations (United States, Australia, South Africa). In addition, the multinational corporations have looked for and created consortiums for the exploitations of marine resources (the famous modules, rich in strategic minerals, that are found in the depths of the Pacific Ocean along the arc extending from California to Hawaii.)

The rearmament that has been taking place over the last two decades has been

one of the fundamental reasons for the struggle to appropriate raw materials, especially the so-called strategic minerals for their military utilization. Ever since these minerals became decisive both for the survival of the military-industrial complex and for high technology industry, their control has been necessary for the superpowers because they have not been able to hoard a sufficient supply.

The regulatory mechanisms for the control and readjustment of zones of influence between the superpowers achieve agreements acceptable to both, but by means of a policy that completely ignores the changes on the international scene.

New solutions are not offered for new vicissitudes, and military power continues to be the main element in maintaining the traditional status. And as long as the economic and social contradictions of the industrialized world continue, the raw material zones (which, in the international division of labour, play the role of raw material providers) will continue running the risks or being the protagonists of this concerted but dangerous confrontation.

## On the current nature of the EEC

The 25th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome came and went without great fanfare, in member countries as well as in aspiring countries, and it can be said that the Economic Community is in the middle of a soul-searching operation. Why this identity crisis?

"Europeanist" ideas date from long before the founding of the Community. Therefore it is not surprising that, in the creation of the Communities, they have come to be regarded more as a factor of political stability than as a substantial revamping of old European capitalism.

The general loss of faith in pre-existing economic and social models is the result of the crisis years, as is demonstrated by a comparison of the two well-known studies of the OCDE: The Mc Craken Report and the "Interfutures."

Examining the Fifth Programme at the mid-term of the 1981 economic policy of

the Commission of European Communities, it can be seen that there is little that is originally "European" in its perspectives of what market economies should be like in the current circumstances.

In spite of all this, the EEC continues to be, for the moment, an important customs, agricultural, judicial and monetary machine, among other things.

What is the problem then? To put it simply, the inability to find a specifically European solution to problems arising in this new phase of industrialized market economies.

The Old World needs new or renewed friendships based on full cooperation and respect. Perhaps Spain, as an aspiring member of the EEC, will be able to introduce new elements, especially with respect to a review of Community foreign policy and, specifically, with respect to relations with Latin America.

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